GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:426
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
SPECIAL SCHEME FOR POPULATION CONTROL
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a special/new scheme for population control as reported in the Hindi daily 'Hindustan' dated July 31, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the target set under it;

(d) the quantum of funds allocated under it, State-wise;

(e) the population of country as on April, 2004 alongwith the present birth rate;

(f) whether the various schemes launched earlier failed to control and stabilize the population in the country;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the details of the districts having high birth rate alongwith the action plan of the Government in those districts?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 426 FOR 25TH AUGUST, 2004

Yes, Sir. A News Report appeared in the Hindi daily "Hindustan" on 31.7.2004 stating that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was about to launch a special project in 170 high fertility districts in 5 States, for population control. The aim of the project was to reduce the Total Fertility Rate of India from 3.4% to 2.1. It was indicated that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would spend Rs.280 crores on the project in the next 5 years.

The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) states the commitment of the Government to replicate all over the country the success that some Southern and other States have had in family planning, and that a sharply targeted Population Control Programme would be launched in the 150 odd high fertility districts. Accordingly, the Department of Family Welfare is conceptualizing a Strategy for the identified 150 high fertility districts of the country, through introduction of new initiatives/schemes. However, the strategy is still in the process of being finalized.

The medium-term goal of the National Population Policy, 2000, is to achieve the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 by 2010, for the country. However, the performance of high fertility States/districts is acting as a drag on the overall National performance. The CMP strategy in these States/districts aims at addressing unmet needs for contraception, immunization and safe delivery, so as to enable the country to achieve the goal of attaining TFR of 2.1 by 2010.

The details of the scheme are under finalization, and no funds have been allocated so far.

The population of the country as on 1st April, 2004, has been estimated to be 108.13 Crores approximately and the present Birth Rate(Year 2002) is 25.0 at All India Level.

Various schemes earlier adopted by the Department of Family Welfare have yielded good results in better governed States. Already 8 States and UTs have achieved the TFR of 2.1 and 11 more States and UTs are also well poised to achieve this goal, by implementing the same schemes of the Department of Family Welfare. Therefore, it cannot be said that the schemes adopted earlier have failed to control population of the country. However, it is admitted that there is a need for focused attention in the demographic weaker States/districts.

The demographically weaker States and districts have not been able to show good results due to the need for systemic reform, better financial management and administrative will to address these issues. Under the revised Strategy, the focus of the Department of Family Welfare would be to enhance the programme management skills in these States/districts, and also to seek greater Public-

Private Partnership to improve access to and availability of quality family welfare services in these States.

The districts were arranged in descending order of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) as per the Census 2001 data. A list of 150 high fertility districts has been arrived at by excluding better performing States with 1 or 2 districts only in the list like, Haryana (Gurgaon), Uttaranchal (Hardwar), West Bengal (Uttar Dinajpur, Malda), Gujarat (Dohad, Banaskantha), Chhattisgarh (Sarguja) and Assam (Dhubri, Goalpara, Marigaon). Clusters of high fertility districts concentrated in the 5 States of U.P., M.P., Bihar, Rajasthan and Jharkhand have been identified, for focused implementation under the CMP strategy. Since these States are already covered under the Empowered Action Group (EAG) mechanism, it is under consideration whether all 210 districts in these States should be covered under the CMP strategy, or, whether 174 districts should be covered by including all districts of the States of U.P., Bihar and Jharkhand and select districts of Rajasthan and M.P. in the Strategy. The comparative listing of such districts is annexed. The strategy in respect of these districts is being finalized as indicated above.